

METH PRECURSOR TASK FORCE MEETING

**July 17, 2008
Kansas Pharmacists Association
Conference Room
1020 SW Fairlawn Road
Topeka, KS**

Thursday, July 17, 2008

PERSONS PRESENT: Michael Coast, R.Ph., KS Board of Pharmacy (KBOP); Brian Caswell, R.Ph., KS Pharmacists Association (KPhA); Jeff Brandau, KS Bureau of Investigation (KBI); Steve Wilhoft, Attorney General's Office (AG's Office); Michael Beezley, M.D., Board of Healing Arts, (KBHA); Mandy Hagan, CHPA; Randall Forbes, Frieden & Forbes; Michael Larkin, KPhA; Pete Stern, KSPA; Josh Quire, Intern; Debra Billingsley, KBOP.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: Michael Coast, R.Ph., called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Introductions were made.

Elect Chairperson: A motion was made and seconded to nominate Michael Coast, R.Ph. to serve as the task force chairperson. (Brandau/Beezley,MD). Motion passed unanimously.

Pilot Program: Mike Coast, R.Ph. advised the group that MethCheck was planning to conduct a voluntary pilot program in SE Kansas and MethShield was planning to conduct a program in SW Kansas. This will be offered to all retail chain and community pharmacies in those counties. Hospitals are exempt. Debra Billingsley will send an introductory letter to the pharmacies in these areas advising that the Task Force is encouraging everyone to participate in the program.

The group discussed whether there were any liability issues related to a pharmacy using a 3rd party that would access the logbooks before they were sent to law enforcement. The statute was reviewed related to this issue. There were questions as to whether the 3rd party would be an agent of the law enforcement entity receiving the information.

Discussion of advantages and disadvantages of scheduling PSE and alternatives: The group discussed collaborative practice, behind the counter or 3rd class drugs, and electronic tracking. Specifically, the disadvantages and

advantages came down to cost and access of PSE to the patient. Medicaid reimbursement is not an issue because they do not currently pay for any cough or cold medication. Jeff Brandau stated that the greater cost is to society if we do not protect the tax paying citizens so that access is fair and accessible but also protects them.

The costs associated with a PSE electronic program are around \$350,000 - \$400,000 for start up costs and yearly monitoring. These costs are associated with purchasing software, software licensing and maintenance contracts, costs of hardware, IT personnel, etc. There was discussion as to whether any federal grants would be available for implementation and running an electronic log. Mandy Hagen offered to look for any grants that might be available.

There was some fear that becoming too restrictive would cause stores to quit carrying any product. The group questioned whether scheduling as a Schedule IV was proven to be cost effective as well as reducing meth lab seizures in the state of Oregon. They also discussed the fact that Mexico was implementing import quotas which could increase crime in the U.S. The A.G.'s office advised that the KS Sheriff's Association was not in favor of scheduling as a Schedule III because it reduces access and punishes law abiding citizens. It was questioned as to how to gauge the success of a program. Lab seizures are up because law enforcement is using the logs and being more aggressive in looking for persons purchasing the product.

The action items that would be done for the next meeting would be the following: A letter will be sent to the pharmacies in Kansas by the Board of Pharmacy. Deb Billingsley will get the letters out next week.

Research whether any grants will be available. Mandy Hagen volunteered to look for this information and bring to the next meeting.

The Oregon statistical information will be obtained by Michael Coast, R.Ph. for the next meeting.

Michael Beezley, MD will check with the Board of Healing Arts and KMS to determine how the physicians would feel about a collaborative practice with pharmacists or whether they would want patients calling for prescriptions. Information will be obtained on access to pharmacists and doctors in Kansas through KHPA.

Data will be collected related to sales from distributors and retailers association. Pete Stern offered to assist with this task.

The next meeting will be conducted on October 7, 2008 at 1:30 at the KBI Office located at 17th and Topeka Blvd in Topeka.

Meeting adjourned.